THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : (a) There is no such exodus.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The provisions in the ONGC regulations governing employment after retirement are felt to be adequate.

Cylinders Stolen from the Godowns

349. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cylinders stolen from the godowns of L.P.G. dealers during the last three years State-wise; company-wise;

(b) the number of thefts detected and property recovered;

(c) if so, whether the cylinders were insured by the owning oil Co. if so, at what rate and the amount realised from the underwriter; and

(d) whether it is a fact that oil companies are charging Rs. 1500/- from the dealers for the stolen cylinder despite lodging F.I.R. with police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) A statement is given as annexure [*See* Appendix CL XVII, Annexure No. 6]

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Cylinders which are in possession of the LPG distributors are not insured by the Oil Companies. However, distributors normally take insurance cover for cylinders in stock with them.

(d) Wherever theft is established, recovery is made at the rate of Rs. 550/- per cylinder. In all others cases of loss etc., recovery is made @ Rs. 1500/- per cylinder.

Unauthorised gas connections

350. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases registered against unauthorised gas connection holders, equipment manufacturers under LPG Control Order, during last three years State-wise, oil company-wise;

(b) the total number of cylinders and equipments confiscated, State-wise and oil company-wise; and

(c) what is the value of the confiscated material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A statement is given in the annexure [*See* Appendix CL XVII, Annexure No. 7]

(c) The total value of the confiscated material amounts to Rs. 9.23 lakhs (approx.)

Impact of rise in price of crude oil

351. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the international price of crude oil has increased by $2 to $ 20 a barrel recently;

(b) if so, what is its estimated impact on the India's crude oil imports vis-a-vis oil pool account;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the prices of petroleum products to curtail deficit in oil pool account; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The monthly

average crude oil price in the international market during the last few months October, 1992—January, 1993) was between $ 21.53—$ 15.19 per barrel. Based on actual weighted average price, for this period the country has saved about US $ 150.56 million in foreign exchange.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present.

Proposal for Development of Southern Gas Grid

352. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to develop Southern gas grid;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop similar gas grid connecting central and northern parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The concept of laying a gas pipeline from the Western offshore to the Southern State has been approved in principle.

(c) The HBJ pipeline system which supplies natural gas from the Western offshore to units located in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana already exists.

प्राकृतिक गैस का आयात

353. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज** : क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार देश में प्राकृतिक गैस की बढ़ती हुई मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए इसके आयात का निर्णय ले रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने आगामी वर्षों में घरेलू रूप से उत्पादित प्राकृतिक गैस की उपलब्धता का आकलन किया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो वर्ष, 1996-97 के अंत तक प्राकृतिक गैस अनुमानत: कितनी मात्रा में उपलब्ध होगी : और

(घ) उस समय देश में गैस की मांग और आपूर्ति में कितना अन्तर होगा ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) मध्य-पूर्व से पाइपलाइन के जरिए प्राकृतिक गैस के आयात का प्रस्ताव अवधारणा के चरण में है ।

(ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) और (घ) पहले ही किए गए लगभग 95 एम एम एस सी एम डी के आबंटन की तुलना में वर्ष 1996-97 तक उपलब्धता लगभग 80 एम एम एस सी एम डी होने की आशा है और गैस अथारिटी आफ इंडिया लि. के पास लगभग 260 एम एम एस सी एम डी की मांग दर्ज की गई है ।

Enlisting Japanese Investment and Expertise in oil Exploration

354. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to enlist Japanese investment and expertise in oil exploration as reported in Economic Times dated 3rd April, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of this package;

(c) whether despite India's open door policy of liberalisation, the Japanese have not yet evinced keen interest in tie-ups with India in the field of oil exploration; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH